1947 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LXXIV - Number 5 – May 2025

Friday May 16, 2025 7pm

License Testing 5:30pm

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THIS MONTH...

Arizona's Quartzfest

Presented by Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ

WA6VAQ takes us to amateur radio's winter desert domain in Quartzite, Arizona. No other hamfest in the world brings together so much innovation in mobile antenna systems, mobile ham shacks, recreational vehicles, portable and mobile EMCOMM systems, off-the-grid living, alternative energy, off-roading and radio education. The first Quartzfest was held in 1997.

Our in-person meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement.

We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to info@mdarc.org.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

https://groups.io/g/MDARC

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Michael Papp, WB6GJE
Secretary – Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Directors At Large
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Mark Fehlig WA6NGC Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair – Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON 2024

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - Michael Papp, WB6GJE
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

The Carrier Newsletter
Editor - Matthew G. Vurek, N4DLA
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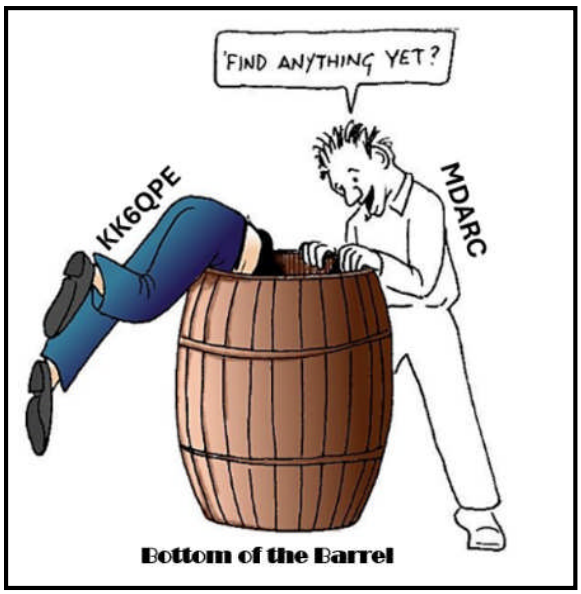
Fred Coe, WB6ASU wb6asu@icloud.com

MDARC Family,



My wife just commented "didn't you just finish writing a President's Message'?

I think this time it surprised us both because it just seemed like a week ago that I'd submitted a message to the CARRIER, but May is now upon us so guess it is again time.

So, here is some information on our Education and Training courses. By the time you read this we will have been well on our way for completing the 9-week General License Course with a license testing opportunity on May 27 at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church. We've been averaging about 12 students at each session with a 58%-42% mix between Zoom and in-person.

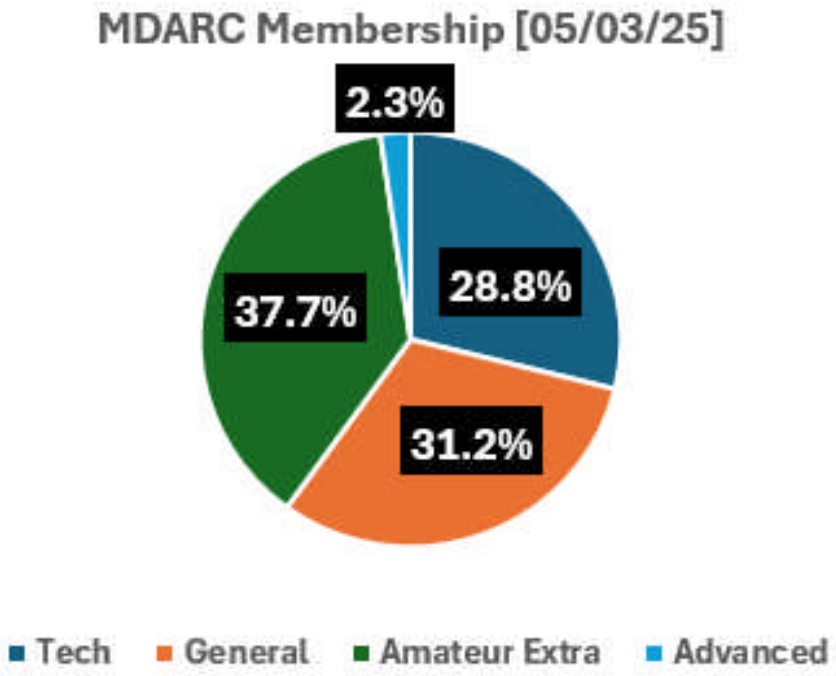
Two questions for you:
What costs a bit more than 8 cents per page? What has 603 questions in 92 pages? If you said the ~ 400-page **ARRL Extra Class License Manual** (13th edition) and the current Amateur Extra Question Pool, then you would be right. Congratulations! MDARC offers a 10-week Extra Course every two years and this year we start on 06/24/25 and end on 08/26/25 with a license testing opportunity on 09/2/25.

I've been considering Why would a Ham want to get an Amateur Extra Class License? I think the introductory comments found on page 1-1 of the Manual has a good explanation"
"Just about every ham thinks about obtaining the Extra class "ticket" at one point or another in their ham career — and why not? Extra class licensees have complete access to all frequencies available to the Amateur Service. There's also the good feeling of knowing that you've demonstrated broad and useful knowledge of technology, operating practices, and the FCC rules and regulations. Having an Extra class license doesn't mean you know everything there is to know — quite the contrary — but you will be better prepared to learn and grow within the service." The ARRL Extra Class License Manual (p. 23). ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. Kindle Edition.

For many of us, there is the motivation to learn, not just about our hobby, but in other areas as well. And sure, there may be some peer pressure and possible bragging rights involved to earn the Extra ticket, but that is okay.

(continued on following page)

Ever wonder what the License Class mix is for MDARC members? From today's membership database as on 05/03/25 there are 260 license holders and 21 SWLs. You will notice that there are 98 Amateur Extra Licensees which is nearly 38% of the membership. I think that is very commendable and indicates the depth of amateur radio knowledge in our Club.



So what about the 81 members who are General License holders or the 6 members who are Advance license holders? Now would be a great opportunity to join the MDARC Amateur Extra License course and participate in a structured 10-week program to bring you to the finish line.

So, consider taking that next step and join us on 6/24/25 to embark on your quest for the Amateur Extra license. The first step would be to sign up at:

https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details

73,

Larry Bradley, KK6QPE, President

Garth Korwin, KJ6BIY
Jeff Wright, KO6FYS
Phil Montgomery, KM6KEU
Eric Osborne, KQ6MT
Steve Zavanelli, KN6SGE
Rick Ellis, K6TOR

If you hear these new members on the air, please welcome them to our club.

——— *Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC, Membership Chair*

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Cancer Hope Walk (see next page) Confirmed
Saturday, May 17, 2025
Walk at Walnut Creek Civic Park
Director of Events, Susan Moon smoon@cancersupport.net.
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
https://cancersupport.net/event/hope-walk/

Boy Scout Hike Berkeley Hills Confirmed
Saturday, May 17, 2025
Scouts Hike 20 miles in Tilden Park. We staff checkpoints.
Radio Coordinator: Dave Shaw, WB6WTM <wb6wtm@arrl.net>

Lake Chabot Trail Challenge - Running Race Confirmed
Sunday, June 1, 2025
Running race, 5k, and 1/2 Marathon in Castro Valley
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
Race Director: Rachel Lunt <teamlunt07@gmail.com>

Field Day Confirmed
Sat & Sun, June 28 & 29, 2025
Annual event, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord, CA
https://www.mdarc.org/activities/field-day

Skyline 50k Confirmed
Sunday, August 3, 2025
Running race in the Oakland Hills
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
Scena Performance <adam.ray@scenaperformance.com>
https://scenaperformance.com/events/skyline-50k

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

My Fellow Hams,

MDARC has a Public Service walk in Civic Park in Walnut Creek for the Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area, on May 17, 2025, at 8:00 AM. This organization provides free comprehensive support programs for cancer patients including counseling, support groups, nutrition, exercise, emergency financial assistance and patient education programs as well as special programs for teens and children.

We will be placed at hydration stations and at key locations along the walking route.
We will be looking for any problems with the walkers that are participating in the walk.

We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event. MDARC has supported this event in past years. This walk is HT compatible, using the MDARC 2 meter repeater, W6CX.

We welcome back the hams that served in this event last year, and welcome hams that have never served in past walks.

Please put this event on your calendar and let me know that you are interested in participating by contacting me at laryloomer@yahoo.com.

Stations that have already checked in for this event are: KG6PHZ, K6TDG, KA6BJS, KA6LER, N6RIO and KD6NRD.

We welcome additional hams that would like to participate in this worthwhile event.

Thank you.
73, Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ARRL FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES, JUNE 27 - 28 - 29, 2025

We will have a Field Day Planning Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, a few days after the April Membership Meeting. Please attend to volunteer to help us plan our Field Day 2025, an important event on the MDARC Calendar.

Our club needs volunteers for the following positions at the W6CX Field Day Site, which will again be set up at Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street in Concord.

1. **Persons to deliver, set up and dismantle the amateur radio equipment, tables and chairs**
2. **Public information table and visitor logger** Dick Wade, WM6G,volunteered, Thanks!
3. **Field Day Publicity** Ham volunteers to work on publicity. More ideas are needed.
4. **Safety Officer** John Rio, N6RIO, volunteered. Thank you.
5. **Public service antenna display**
6. **Morse code telegraph key sending**
7. **Operators to demonstrate HF radio communications from inside MDARC van**
8. **Two operators for the "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station**
9. **Digital Amateur Television (DATV) repeater operators to assist with DATV repeater demonstration in MDARC van**
10. **Operators to demonstrate the solar charging system for the MDARC trailer battery**
11. **One Volunteer Examiner (VE) to assist with license testing at 1pm on Saturday, June 28.** WM6G has volunteered but we need one more VE
12. **Multiple volunteers are needed to supervise the food being served for Friday dinner, Saturday (breakfast, lunch and barbecue dinner) and Sunday breakfast; a barbecue grill and a person to do the cooking is needed.** Grill provided by Jim Tittle. Cook needed.

The following activities are also planned:
Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, hosts a license testing session at 1PM; Available VEs please stand by

Larry Loomer, KI6LNB, will demonstrate a vehicle-mounted (mobile) solar power system

Volunteer needed to demonstrate digital radio communication

KI6LNB will demonstrate the MDARC trailer's auxiliary generator and a trailer person will demonstrate the trailer's features and capabilities.

Charles Henry, KG6PHZ, will demonstrate his solar panel array trailer, which will provide power to our club's 2024 Field Day activities.

To volunteer, please contact me at laryloomer@yahoo.com .

73,
Larry Loomer, KI6LNB Field Day Chair

PACIFICON Committee Looking for Co-Chairs

Fellow MDARC members,

I am pleased to tell you that the PACIFICON chairs are already working hard on putting together another terrific event this coming October (Fri, October 10 - Sun, October 12, 2025). In order to carry out this mission there are a lot of people involved already, but we're "looking for a few good MDARC members" to step up and be a part of this great team. There are two specific opportunities available to support your club in the success of PACIFICON.

PACIFICON Co-Chair - this role is to work side-by-side with the overall Chair of the PACIFICON event (Julie Mah, WJ8MAH) with the intent of becoming the Chair for PACIFICON 2026.

These co-chairs are working towards ensuring that there is not a 'single point of failure' if a chair is not able to carry out their work, and to build a stable of folks who are familiar with the process and could help once they are trained. As a Co-chair you will learn the ropes, so to speak, in preparation for becoming the overall Chair or Registration Chair for PACIFICON 2026.

What are the benefits?
- You will get to hang out with Julie or Jim, who are both really cool people, and lots of fun
- As a chair for PACIFICON 2026, you will be able to stay on-site at the Marriott (paid for by PACIFICON/MDARC) for PACIFICON 2026 like the chairs do for each PACIFICON (trust me, it's really nice being able to simply walk over to the event space and not worry about driving in each morning at zero-dark-30)
- You will get to see what it really takes to run this event each year, have a hand in the success of PACIFICON 2025, and you will meet a lot of great folks who are involved (not just the chairs, but the many volunteers). And, as Registration co-chair you will get to meet a LOT of the attendees.

You don't even have to be a licensed ham, so there's nothing stopping you from being part of the biggest event that MDARC hosts - PACIFICON 2025 & 2026.

Please contact either (or both) of us about this tremendous opportunity.
Julie, juliemah4@yahoo.com Jim, james@jamesmarchetti.com

On behalf of Julie, WJ8MAH, myself and the whole PACIFICON committee, thank you!

73,

~Jim Marchetti - KD7G
Registration Chair, PACIFICON 2025

HACKS & HINTS

Using Zoom for Antenna Work

By Matthew G. Vurek, N4DLA

On April 11, 2025, I again lost all reception on the MDARC digital amateur television (DATV) repeater on 1244.500 MHz. As reported on page 20 in the April 2025 *Carrier*, I had previously lost DATV reception on March 20, 2025 due to the failure of a free to air (FTA) satellite receive that abruptly quit working after less than 4 years of use. This time, the replacement receiver was working properly and all coaxial cable connections checked fine. My transmitted signal into the repeater was also fine.

I needed to climb up a 20 foot extension ladder and check the receive antenna, an unbranded, off-shore made 10 element 1.2 GHz yagi mounted on a mast directly below the 1.2 GHz transmit antenna. My father Jerry, KF6CVA, held the ladder, which was balanced precariously on a bay tree trunk next to the metal antenna mast. Thus, he could not watch the DATV monitor to see if the repeater signal returned. The question then was, how would I know whether my receive antenna was adjusted the right way to properly receive the DATV repeater signal? I would need to climb down after any adjustment, walk back inside my DATV studio to check the receive video and then walk back outside and climb back up the ladder.

The potential for repeated ladder climbing seemed too tedious so KF6CVA set up a “Zoom Meeting” on his cellular telephone. He then placed his telephone’s camera in front of the DATV receiver’s video monitor. I dialed in his Zoom meeting credentials, which then gave me a view of my DATV monitor on my cellular telephone! Back up the ladder I went to adjust the receive antenna. Further inspection revealed that the receive antenna had moved several inches lower from its previous height on the mast. This “shrinkage” was enough that the roof peak of the home next door blocked DATV reception. I held the cellular telephone carefully in one hand while my other hand pushed the receive antenna back up as far as I could reach. I glanced at my cellular telephone and the DATV repeater signal had returned! I then tightened the u-bolts for the receive antenna so it would not surreptitiously lower itself again and then climbed back down the ladder to solid ground.

So, this story shows that Zoom is not just for meetings, but can also serve as a “second op” for antenna work!

MDARC CAMPOUT June 6, 7, 8, 2025

Located at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area in the Forbes Creek section at the Rocky Ridge group site. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between our club and a another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for over 50 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended Zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one.

Call-in will be on the Mount Diablo W6CX (147.06 +600 100hz PL) repeater.

Friday

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), as well as the 146.745 -600 W6SAR Foresthill PL 156.7 will be monitored. If you are a a distance away from the campsite, the Mt. Diablo W6CX repeater will be available. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty.

That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.

A campfire and star party with telescopes will take place after dark.

Saturday

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours.

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...***AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS… CORK ONLY.***

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey star party with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

(continued on following page)

Sunday

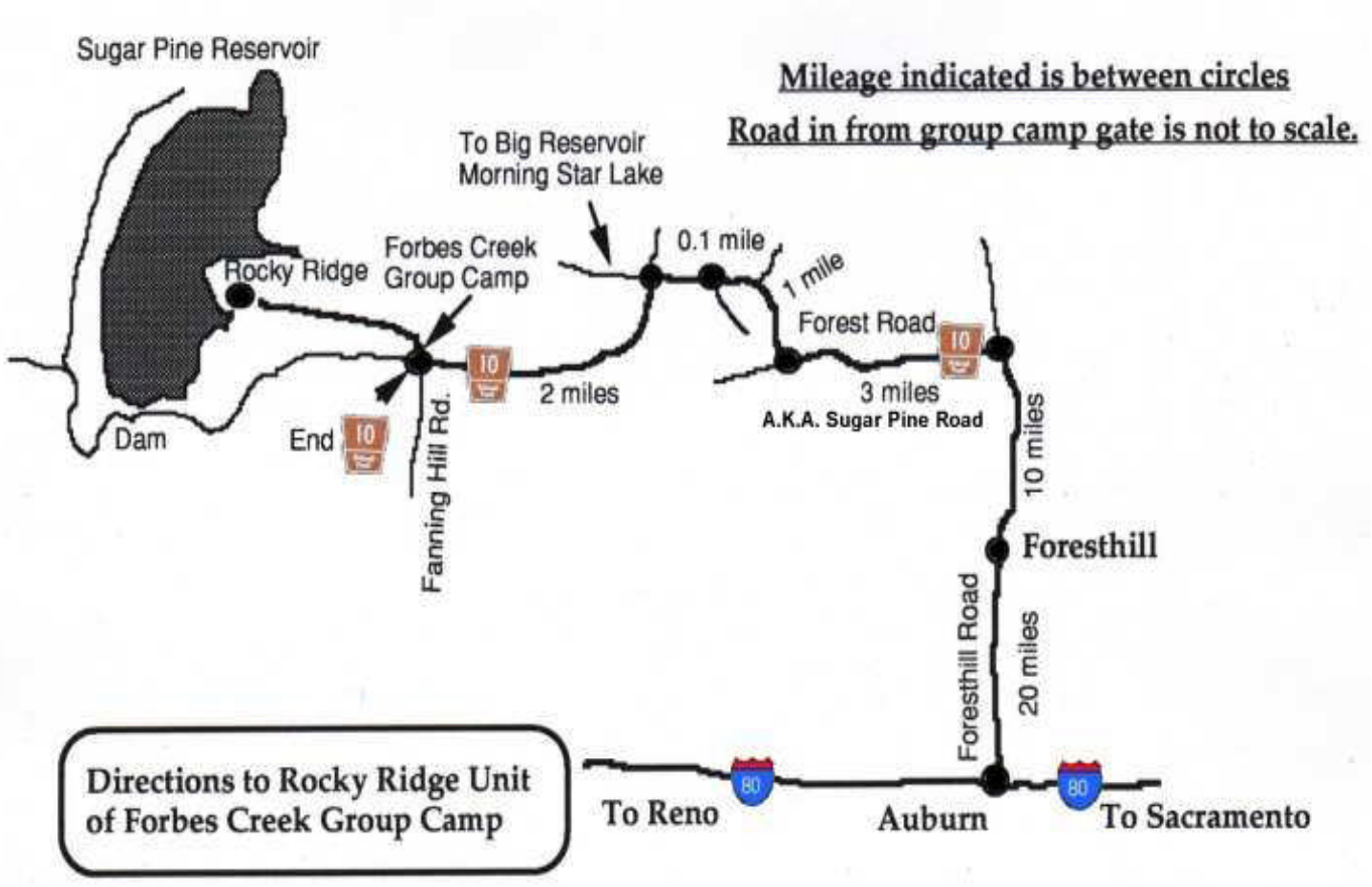
At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. **If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site.** In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

RSVP. to Julie Mah, WJ8MAH juliemah4@yahoo.com



MDARC General Meeting Minutes March 21, 2025

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by MDARC president Larry Bradley KK6QPE.
a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees. b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.
c. Safety, Exits, Rest Rooms: Larry KK6QPE indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms.
d. Acknowledge new members: New members were acknowledged.
e. Acknowledge visitors: Tony W7XM, the ARRL Pacific Division Director introduced himself and offered to answer any questions. Neil Giles KM6FIV asked members to consider volunteering to represent K6V on the air, to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley on March 30th. The event will involve amateur radio operations on various bands and modes, including HF, DMR, and Echolink. Earl Brown, WB6JAF was also acknowledged. Mike N6JGA announced the availability of a repeater site in Redwood City and said that anybody who is interested, should reach out to for contact details. Ace and Jason Mah were also acknowledged.

2. Approval of Minutes from the Last Meeting: The minutes of the February meeting were approved without objection.

3. Officer Reports:
a. President: Larry Bradley KK6QPE had no report.
b. Vice President: Michael Papp WB6GJE reported that he is now the program chair and asked members for suggestions for presenters.
c. Secretary: Brian KM6NGS had no report.
d. Treasurer: Barbara Whysong K6WHY submitted the following report.

Monthly Report -

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Credits			
Membership	$890.52		
Education	$13.40		
Other	$6.13		
Repeater Donations	$85.00		
Donations	$15.00		
ESIF Dividend	220.64		
Total Credits	$1,230.69	$0.00	$1,230.69
Debits			
Operations	$2,070.00	$88.30	$2,158.30
Test Fees	$105.00		$105.00
Total Debits	$2,175.00	$88.30	$2,263.30
Change in Net Assets			**-$1,032.61**

MDARC INCOME	PACIFICON INCOME	MDARC Expense	Pacificon Expenses
Membership		EIP monthly fee*	Google Workspace
Donations		Unwired monthly fee	Constant Contact*
Education		Rodie's	
Interest/Dividends		ARRL/VEC test fees	
		ARRL Liability Ins	
		LaRue payment	

*EIP monthly fee increased from $500 to $515/month
*Constant Contact increased from $55.00 - $59.50/month

Balance Sheet
February 28, 2025

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Equipment Self-Ins Fun	65,441.98
MDARC Savings	28,444.87
MDARC Checking	56,614.42
Total Checking & Savings	150,501.27
Total Current Assets	150,501.27
TOTAL ASSETS	**150,501.27**
LIABILITIES	**0.00**
NET ASSETS	**150,501.27**
Increase/Decrease from prev month	-1,032.61

e. Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB reported that there is a new net on the W6CX repeater, called the Vet Net, at 18:00 hours every Wednesday.

4. Directors at Large
Directors at Large: Mike W6MEW was absent, Mark Fehlig WA6NGC, Trevor WA6JAU and Cal K6VT had nothing to report.

(continued on following page)

5. Committee Reports – Standing:
a. Auction: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
b. Outreach Coordinator: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
c. Technical: Neither Jim K6SOE nor Trevor WA6JAU had anything to report.
d. Digital Media: Grant K6CBK said that he had added the new ARRL logo for Field Day to the website.
e. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE stated that the Technician class is finished and that the General class starts on March 25.
f. Pacificon: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
g. Membership: Jan KM6NFC, presented the following data; MDARC Membership Report; paying members (individual & primary) ;211. All current members incl. family and 12 Lifetime + Honorary members; 269. Renewals last 30 days; 70. Past due (excluding family members); 102.
h. Public Service: Larry KK6QPE announced the following public service opportunities; MS Walk on March 30th, and the Diablo Trails Challenge on April 5th. Details can be found on the MDARC website under Public Service.
i. Vehicle Committee MDARC-1: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
j. License Testing: Larry KK6QPE reported that during the March 4th testing, 5 candidates passed and the 6th candidate passed all 3 levels. Tonight, 1 Extra, 1 General and 2 Technicians passed their tests.
k. Trailer Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
l. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that Field Day will be held at the Olympic High School in Concord, same place as last year, and that our application is still in process at the school. He expects a positive answer soon.
m. Holiday Banquet: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
n. Election Committee: Report not scheduled or unavailable.
o. Program Committee: Michael Papp is now the program committee chair.
Larry KK6QPE added that he, Larry Loomer and Janice Fujii had attended, as special judges, at the Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair. They awarded prizes as follows; Piezoelectric Energy Generation Through Walking $200. Airless Wheels that Generate Electricity with Piezo Transducers $100. And Powering a Light-bulb with Orange Peels $100. Larry will also write a report for the Carrier. He noted that MDARC has been doing this for about four years already. In answer to a question from Larry KK6QPE, Janice stated that the winning students will go to the State Fair, the 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to submit their projects at the national level and the senior level students will go on to the international science and engineering fair which will be held in Ohio this. year. Larry mentioned that he had sent out an email to all the MDARC members, who are also Concord residents, in an attempt to enlarge the Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Services group. Their role is to report into the emergency manager at the Concord Police Department in order to relay communi-cations between CERT members in the field, and the Concord police department. This is because CERT members use FRS radios which have limited range.

6. Unfinished Business: None

7. New Business: None.

8. Good of the order: Barbara K6WHY had a few people wearing MDARC merchandise to show some of what is available from the MDARC Store. To find the MDARC Store, go to the MDARC website home page, click on the About Us tab and scroll down to Store.

9. Adjourn Business Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Secretary, on April 14, 2025.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting April 7, 2025

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley, KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shots:
Officers: Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Mike Papp WB6GJE, Vice President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Barbara Whysong, K6WHY, Treasurer; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Mark Fehlig WA6NGC, Director at Large; Trevor Hall WA6JAU Director at Large.
Committee Chairs/Coordinator: Grant Bowman K6CBK Digital Media; Jim Tittle K6SOE Rocky Ridge Repeater (aka Tech.) **Guests:** Mike Patterson N6JGA; Dave WA6UHA.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Trevor WA6JAU seconded by Barbara K6WHY, proposed a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes of the February Board of Directors Meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: The agenda was adopted since no objections were heard.

5. Officer reports:
a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE – Had no report.
b. Vice-President Mike Papp WB6GJE – Reported that he has discovered that he is handling the programs for our monthly meetings and that he has secured a speaker for this month's meeting and is lining up speakers for the rest of the year, except for June and December.
c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report.
d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – Barbara presented the report on the following page.
Barbara provided financial updates, including submitting tax information to the accountant and completing a detailed review of 2024 income and expenses. The board discussed the club's nonprofit tax filing requirements, with Barbara explaining that, while we don't pay taxes, we must file returns to maintain our nonprofit status. The board considered potential ways to reduce costs associated with tax preparation in the future.

6. Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB reported that the W6CX repeater had been used, this evening, by an Eagle Scout working on his radio merit badge.

7. Directors at large reports:
Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no director's report.
Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Trevor reported on the North American Repeater Coordinating Council (NARCC) Annual General Membership Meeting. The meeting had 44 check-ins out of 212 organizations, achieving a quorum. Trevor highlighted the importance of verifiers in checking repeater operations and mentioned ongoing border issues with other coordinating councils. Mike WB6GJE announced that he has become the new President of NARCC and discussed the process for transferring organization ownership in case of abandonment or death. The group also briefly discussed issues with interfering repeaters and the limitations of NARCC's authority in such matters. Mark Fehlig WA6NGC added that there will be a presentation by a broadcast historian, this coming Friday at the California Historical Radio Society. Cal Vasquez K6VT – Was not present.

8. Committee Reports:
a. Auction: No report was expected.
b. Communications Trailer: Mike W6MEW had report.
c. Digital Media: Grant K6CBK reported that the PACIFICON website is now live.
f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE reported that the General class is running with approximately 15 students.
g. Election Committee: No report was expected.
h. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that Barbara had supplied him with the necessary insurance papers for the school.
i. Holiday Banquet: No report was expected.

(continued on following page)

Balance Sheet
March 31, 2025

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Equipment Self-Ins Fun	21,856.62
MDARC Savings	72,260.56
MDARC Checking	55,279.01
Total Checking & Savings	149,396.19
Total Current Assets	149,396.19
TOTAL ASSETS	**149,396.19**
LIABILITIES	**0.00**
NET ASSETS	**149,396.19**
Increase/Decrease from prev month	-1,105.08

INCOME/EXPENSE YTD 2025

	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET
MDARC	7,470.61	(6,240.63)	1,229.98
PACIFICON	0.00	(3,239.86)	(3,239.86)
TOTAL	**7,470.61**	**(9,480.49)**	**(2,009.88)**

CREDIT FEES YTD 2025

	GROSS	FEES	NET
MDARC	5,989.00	(302.96)	5,686.04
PACIFICON	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**5,989.00**	**(302.96)**	**5,686.04**

Monthly Report - MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	MDARC	Pacificon	TOTAL
Credits			
Membership	$2,591.38		$2,591.38
Education	$161.38		$161.38
Other	$649.75		$649.75
Repeater Donations	$110.00		$110.00
Donations	$79.52		$79.52
Pacificon			$0.00
Holiday Party			$0.00
Total Credits	$3,592.03	$0.00	$3,592.03
Debits			
Operations	$2,843.63	$1,658.48	$4,502.11
Test Fees	$195.00		$195.00
			$0.00
Total Debits	$3,038.63	$1,658.48	$4,697.11
Change in Net Assets			**-$1,105.08**

MDARC Income	PACIFICON Income	MDARC Expenses	Pacificon Expenses
Membership		EIP monthly fee	Google Workspace
Donations		Unwired monthly fee	Constant Contact
Ticket sales		Rodie's	Adv payments 2025 & 2026 (Hotel)
Interest/Dividends		Treasurer Expenses	Registration laptop
Education laptop		Education laptop	
		Van insurance	
		Meeting space	
		ARRL/VEC Test Fees	

j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB reported that there will be license testing on May 3rd in Benicia. The next MDARC testing will be on May 18th starting at 5pm.
k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC was not present.
l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report.
m. Outreach: No report was expected.
n. PACIFICON: No report was expected.
o. Programs: Mike WB6GJE discussed this in the officers' reports above.
p. Public Service: Larry KK6QPE reported that they had supported the MS Walk on March 30th, and the Diablo Trails Challenge on April 5th.There will be the Berkeley Hills Road Race on
Saturday, April 26, 2025, and the Devil Mountain Run on Sunday, May 4, 2025 in Danville.
These activities can also be found on the Public Service page on the MDARC website.
q. Radio Lending Library: No report was expected.
r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): Jim K6SOE reported that all the radios are running and that they are planning to put all of the radios on North Peak into one cabinet.
s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:
General Meeting: 04/18/2025 will be a hybrid, in-person and online. Board Meeting 05/05/2025 on Zoom only.

(continued on following page)

10. Unfinished Business:
10.1 Has the bank been notified of the 2025 signatories: Barbara K6WHY reported that the Bank has been notified of the 2025 signatories.
10.2 Should we provide MDARC club name tags for new members, existing members, etc.: Larry KK6QPE will poll membership about interest in club-purchased name badges for those who don't have one. Once these results are received, the Board will decide on the feasibility.
10.3 Has the Donor webpage been updated: Barbara reported that she sent out a message about this and is waiting for feedback. Barbara and Grant still need to do more work on this and she will report back at the June meeting.
10.4 Asset List: Inventory vs Asset? Dollar cutoff amount. STATUS REPORT: This item is still deferred to mid-2025.
10.5 $3,500 anonymous donation to MDARC: what to use it for, etc. Propose Use: Larry KK6QPE noted that there is still $2,500 available. In response to a question about funding the purchase of 5 tablets for license testing, Brian KM6NGS stated that $500 had been approved as a budget item during the February board meeting.
10.6 Have we subscribed to ElectionBuddy to administer MDARC's annual election of officers: Barbara reported that she had discussed this with Benjo and found that we don't need to subscribe to it until we want to use it.
10.7 Field Day: This item has been completed.
10.8 Have the 5 tablets been purchased to support EXAM TOOLS for license testing: One has been purchased to verify that it will do the job.
10.9 CCC Science and Engineering Fair Judging: Larry KK6QPE reported that he, Larry Loomer and Janice Fujii had attended as special judges. They awarded prizes as follows; Piezoelectric Energy Generation Through Walking $200. Airless Wheels that Generate Electricity with Piezo Transducers $100. And Powering a Lightbulb with Orange Peels $100. Larry will write a report for the Carrier.

11 New Business:
11.1 PACIFICON 2027: Barbara K6WHY sought approval to pay a $500 deposit to the San Ramon Marriott to secure the dates for PACIFICON 2027. Barbara, seconded by Mike WB6GJE, proposed a motion that we make the agreement with the Marriott for the weekend of the 3rd Saturday of October 2027 and pay a deposit of up to $500. The motion was passed.
11.2 PACIFICON 2025: Julie WJ8MAH submitted that a registration co-chair and an event co-chair are required. There was no further information on this topic. Barbara added that our bank, Provident, has entered into an agreement with Clover. She investigated the differences between Clover and Square, our current credit card processing provider, and found that continuing with Square, who just raised their rates, would cost us less than $14 extra per year. We would also need to purchase point of sale devices for Clover, at around $100, and there would also be a learning curve with Clover. She also noted that Square provides useful reports which Clover dose not. It was decided that we will continue with Square.
11.3 Should we convert the ESIF (Emergency Self-Insurance Fund) from one 12-month CD to three 3-month CD's: The board discussed and approved changes to the club's ESIF (investment strategy. They decided to switch from a 12-month CD to 3-month CDs for better flexibility and higher interest rates. Barbara K6WHY explained that she had already converted part of the matured 12-month CD into a 3-month CD and put the rest into savings. Mike W6MEW, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to dissolve the 12-month CD and purchase a 3-month CD to replace it. The motion was carried.
After further discussion, Barbara K6WHY, seconded by Mark WA6NGC, proposed a motion to take the money from the previous 12-month CD, that is now in savings, and purchase one 3-month CD. The motion was approved unanimously.
11.4 Selling equipment at a General membership Meeting: After much discussion, it was decided that only one 8-foot table may be used and shall be placed in a location out of the way of Club functions. Mike W6MEW, seconded by Barbara K6WHY proposed a motion that we amend the Guidelines for Equipment Selling at Club Meetings, item 6c to read one table and item 8 to read" The Seller will contribute at least 10% of the sale price to MDARC". The motion was carried unanimously.
12. Good of the order: Nothing was heard.
13. Adjournment: Barbara K6WHY, seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Brian Lotter KM6NGS Secretary, April 13, 2025.
These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.

ESTATE SALE

Astron VS-35M 2 to 15 volts 35 amp power supply $160

Astron RS-35M 35 amp power supply $180

Kenwood IF-232C computer interface $20

Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver $800

Kenwood SP-23 external speaker for TS-450 $100

Yaesu G-800DXA rotator controller only (no rotator) $80

Diamond MX-72H HF-VHF/UHF Duplexer $30

Vibroplex Keyer $90

McElroy semi-automatic telegraph key $150

Reasonable offers for any of the above considered. Contact:
Kim Leong, N6YJ, 925-575-1941 or n6yj.qth@gmail.com

Low-Cost Receivers for Digital Amateur Television Reception Available For Sale from Club Member KA3VDT

These are DVB-S2 receivers pre-programmed for our club's 1.2 GHz W6CX DATV repeater frequencies

Connect a 1.2 GHZ directional antenna, aim it at Mount Diablo's North Peak and watch the over the air repeater signal on your video monitor

Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit http://laser66.com/ham/

To purchase a DATV transmitter, contact Fred Coe, WB6ASU, at wb6asu@icloud.com

SAVE THE DATE

THIRD ANNUAL
ORINDA WILDFIRE SAFETY
AND
PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Orinda Community Park
Saturday, May 17, 2025
10:30AM to 12:30 PM

May 24
10AM
PARACHUTE MOBILE
SPRING JUMPS
Mission 48
QSO Frequency
VHF-147.570
Live Streaming
Track Jumpers via APRS
SEE DETAILS AT
PARACHUTEMOBILE.ORG
THIS EVENT IS SUBJECT TO DELAYS OR CANCELLATION.

Minden, Nevada N7RCA Radio Ranch Swap Meet
Saturday June 7, 2025 7am until ??? FREE !

(Photos from www.N7RCA.com)

Radio, Electronics and Hi-Fi Swap Meet

VINTAGE EQUIPMENT, Modern gear, Drake, Collins, Johnson, Hi-Fi, all electronics.
Agenda: Swap - Buy - Sell - Trade - Have fun!
No fee event, free for the hobbyist!

Swap meet is on N7RCA's 6-acre ranch. Parking, trailers and RV have easy access.
BRING LOTS OF STUFF BY THE TRUCK LOAD !

WHERE: N7RCA Radio Ranch, 1780 Bobcat Court, Minden, NV.
(20 miles from South Lake Tahoe) 15 miles south of Carson City NV.

WHAT TO BRING:
*Yourself, truckloads of equipment if you have it, family, friends etc.
*Bring your own drinks and food etc., none provided.
*Bring your own chairs and tables to use, none provided.

You can drop off large loads the night before. RV's welcome on the ranch, before and after the swap meet...lots of parking.

Map and contact information at www.N7RCA.com

Weather Outlook: Temps in the day time can range from mid 60's to mid 80's. Nights in the 60's to low 40's. Bring a hat and sunscreen...elevation is 5000 feet .

Notice: *This event is a non-commercial event, not for profit. N7RCA is not a party to any sale, claim or warranty from attendees. Owner is not responsible for any loss, damages or injury while on the property. Attend at your own risk.*

If you don't agree to these terms, please do not attend.

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FTDX101MP | *200W HF/50MHz Transceiver*

• Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker

FTDX10 | *HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver*

• Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)

FT-991A | *HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver*

Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO

FTDX101D | *HF + 6M Transceiver*

• Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream

FT-710 Aess | *HF/50MHz 100W SDR Transceiver*

• Unmatched SDR Receiving Performance • Band Pass Filters Dedicated for the Amateur Bands • High Res 4.3-inch TFT Color Touch Display • AESS: Acoustic Enhanced Speaker System with SP-40 For High-Fidelity Audio • Built-in High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner

FT-891 | *HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver*

Stable 100 Watt Output • 32-Bit IF DSP • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control

FT-3185RASP | *Heavy-Duty 85W 2M FM Transceiver*

• Massive Heatsink Ensures Reliable 85W RF Power • Super-DX Function Increases Receiver Sensitivity & Weak Signal Reception • 221 Memory Channels • Large 6-Character Alpha-Numeric Display

FTM-150RASP | *2M/430MHz FM True Dual Band Xcvr*

• Dual Receivers Allowing (V+V, U+U, V+U, U+V) Operation • 55W VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Heat Sink w/Funnel Air Convection Conductor • Front & Main Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio

FTM-510DRASP *C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xcvr*

• New Super-DX & ASP (Audio Digital Signal Processor Unit) • True Dual Bank Receive (V+V/U+U/V+U/U+V) • C4FM/C4FM Digital D-D Dual Receive • 2.4" High-Res Full-Color Touch-Panel Display • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset

NEW!

FTX-1 Optima | *HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode SDR Xcvr*

• Detachable Field head For QRP SOTA/POTA Adventures • Attach Field Head to SPA-1 For 100 Watts (Base Operations) • SPA-1 Includes Internal HF Antenna Tuner • SSB, CW, AM, FM and C4FM Digital

NEW!

FTX-1 Field | *HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode SDR Xcvr*

Compact QRP SOTA/POTA Xcvr (8.4"W, 3.5"H, 2.2"D) • 6W (5W for QRP) • Includes 6400mAh High Capacity Li-ion Battery • SSB, CW, AM, FM and C4FM Digital • 10W of Power w/External Power Supply • Upgradable to 100W with Purchase of SPA-1

FT-70DR *C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr*

• System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging

FT-5DR

C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot

VX-6R | *VHF/UHF Dual Band Hand-Held*

• Big-Radio Features in a Compact Package • Wide-band Receiver Coverage for Catching All the Action! • 900-Channel, 24-Banks Memory System • Outdoor-Ready Features including Waterproof Rating • Smart Search Automatic 31-Channel Scanning/Loading System

5 Ways to Shop!

• RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
• PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
• FAX – All store locations
• ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
• MAIL – All store locations

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The radio

ANAHEIM, CA (800) 854-6046	PORTLAND, OR (800) 765-4267	PHOENIX, AZ (800) 559-7388	MILWAUKEE, WI (800) 558-0411	WOODBRIDGE, VA (800) 444-4799	WINTER SPRINGS, FL (800) 327-1917
SACRAMENTO, CA (877) 892-1745	DENVER, CO (800) 444-9476	PLANO, TX (877) 455-8750	NEW CASTLE, DE (800) 644-4476	SALEM, NH (800) 444-0047	ATLANTA, GA (800) 444-7927

*On most orders over $100 in the continental US. (Rural locations excluded.) Contact HRO for promotion details. Toll-free including Hawaii, Alaska and Canada. All HRO 800-lines can assist you. If the first line you call is busy, you may call another. Prices, specifications and descriptions subject to change without notice.

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

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W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 6:00pm American Legion Veteran's Net 147.060+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets
Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex
7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)
or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)
or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)
Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Club Voice Repeaters
147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1
D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz
https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500
Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0
Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

DATV Internet Stream: **http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org**
YouTube Channel: Media MDARC

May and June 2025 Club Calendar

Friday May 16, 2025	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Monday June 2, 2025	6:30pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Saturday June 7, 2025	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Friday June 20, 2025	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Friday/Saturday/Sunday June 27-29, 2025 ARRL Field Day, Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord (see page X)